

MACAULAY'S CHARACTER OF MARY

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had a real husband. Mary writes about plays and scandal, and uses the endearing and coarse language which characterised the drama of the day. Some of her letters seem to indicate that she was a jolly, rather vulgar-minded girl : she refers to her pregnancy in 1678 in terms as immodest as some of the repartees attributed to Nell Gwyn. Others reveal that intense longing for sympathy and love which is so marked a feature of her letters to William during his absence in Ireland in 1690. But it is clear that Mary soon came to love her husband in spite of his unkindness to her. A letter dated March 3, 1678, is conclusive on this point:

I supose you know the Prince is gone to the army but I am sure you can geuse at the treble I am in I am sure I coud never have thought it half so much I thought coming out of my own contry parting with my friands and relations the greatest that ever coud as long as thay lived hapen to me but I am to be mistaken that now I find till this time I never knew sorow for what can be more cruall in the world then parting with what on loves and nott ondy comon parting but parting so as may be never to meet again to be perpetually in fear for God knows when I may see him or wethere he is nott now at this instant in a batell I recon him now never in safety ever in danger oh miserable live that I lead now.¹

Of even greater interest are Mary's meditations and other writings printed in *Lettres et memoires de Marie*, edited by the Countess Bentinck, and *Memoirs of Queen Mary*, edited by R* Doebner. In the former are an account of the events of the year 1688 and some short pieces for 1690 and 1691, all written in French; in the latter are reflections in English for 1689-1693, which seem to have been compiled at the end of each year from fuller diaries which Mary pro-

¹ *Letters of Two Queens*, pp. 88-9.